



wisconsin department of
children & families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Contact: Sara Buschman, 608.266.9000

Child Care Provider Found Guilty for Defrauding Taxpayers

Today, another child care was found guilty of defrauding the Wisconsin Shares program. This plea is the result of the hard work and collaboration between the Department of Children and Families and law enforcement.

Audrey Jolly was the license holder for Treasure Me in Milwaukee and was suspended from the Wisconsin Shares program in January 2011. She was scheduled to go to trial next month but today entered an Alford*/No Contest plea and was found guilty of one count of theft by fraud. The judge sentenced her to five years in prison, which was stayed and she was placed on four years probation. Ms. Jolly was also ordered to pay \$59,978 in restitution to the Department of Children and Families and serve 60 days in jail.

Ms. Jolly is the sixth person in recent months to enter pleas to defrauding the Shares program rather than go to trial. In May, Latasha Jackson, who was the license holder of Executive Kids, pleaded guilty as did Duane and Shontina Gladney and Telisa Hopgood who worked with Ms. Jackson. In June, Zelda Jackson of Zelda's Love and Happiness Child Care plead guilty to theft by fraud.

"This sends a clear message that fraudulent providers realize that the Department and law enforcement are committed to aggressively pursuing those who commit child care fraud in the Wisconsin Shares program," said Eloise Anderson, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. "We do not tolerate this behavior, which puts the safety of children at risk."

"Fraudulent providers drain scarce resources, tarnish the image of all day care providers who operate legally and provide a much needed service to their communities," continued Secretary Anderson.

Governor Walker and the Department of Children and Families are committed to ensuring that public funds are used only by those who are honestly working to provide important services to Wisconsin families. By tackling fraud in Wisconsin Shares, the Department of Children and Families has saved taxpayers over \$148 million.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families encourages the public to report suspected child care fraud by either calling 1-877-302-FRAUD (3728) or go to the Department's website at dcf.wisconsin.gov and click on the "Report Fraud" button.

**An Alford plea is established by North Carolina v. Alford where a defendant does not admit their guilty, but stipulates that there is enough evidence to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.*